

Submitter: Jzareau Proctor  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

Oregon House Bill 3214 (HB3214) prohibits using certain animals (list below and even includes tortoises and small monitors) in “traveling animal acts,” which will include the educational outreach programs provided by many animal keepers.

he unintended consequences are many. It is a ban on taking a Greek tortoise into a classroom for an educational program about turtles and tortoises. It is a ban on taking a dwarf monitor lizard into a library or to a Scout troop meeting for an educational show discussing reptiles.

“Traveling animal act” means a performance of an animal to which the animal is transported. This qualifies all outreach and educational programs that are not on-site where the animal is permanently housed. They would all be banned.

While the definition for “performance” may seem to disqualify general educational outreach programs, there still remains ambiguity and enforcement could certainly take place at the whim of any enforcement officer as terms are open for interpretation at will. For example “trick” is not defined so an animal standing on its back legs to get a treat, walking to a red laser dot, or jumping from one person’s shoulder to another are tricks and these are commonly seen in educational and outreach programs. Also, a performance includes any program in which an animal “entertains or amuses an audience.” Most are entertained and amused simply by having the incredible experience of seeing animals in person!

Please note that “education programs” are only exempt if you qualify with an entity included in the above exemption list. We have seen misinformation on this being posted on social media.

The only exemptions are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), World Association of Zoos and